Concessional Telephone connections to retired officials of P&T Department

115. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefit of concessional telephone connection in terms of DOT Circular No. 2-79/94-PHA dated 25th of September, 1999, is being denied to pre-1995 (before formation of Department of Telecommunications) retired employees of composite P&T Directorate, who fulfil the requisite criteria laid therein;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this; and

(c) when this facility will be provided to such eligible retired officials of P&T Directorate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, instructions have been issued on September 25, 1998 to extend concesional telephone facilities to the retired employees of Department of Telecommunicatons only. The details are given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below).

The facility has been extended in recognition of long service put in by a DOT employee in the Department of Telecom and to give a sense of satisfaction and belonging to the organisation, as being done by other Government organisations like Railways, Air India, Indian Airlines etc.

Statement

Copy of the instructions letter No. 2-79/94-PHA dated 25.9.1998

Government of India

Ministry of Communications

Department of Telecommunications

415, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001

No. 2-79/94-PHA Dated: September 25, 1998

To

All Chief General Managers,

Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts,

Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MTNL, New Delhi/Mumbai.

Sub: *Grant of Concessional Telephone facilities to retired DOT employees—Policy regarding.*

In order to recognise the long service put in by the DOT employees and to give a sense of satisfaction and belongingness to the organisation, it has been decided to grant the following concessional telephone facilities to the retired DOT employees;

1. All the employees (both permanent and temporary) who put in minimum of 20 years or more continuous service in DOT or having their last posting in DOT for at least one year before retirement will be covered under the scheme.

2. The benefit will also be available to the spouse of the eligible employees who die in harness even before putting in 20 years of service or after the death of retired eligible employees.

3. The telephones will be rent free and will have the following free call concessions:

Category	Free bimonthly concession
Group A	1000 calls
Group B	500 calls
Group C	300 calls
Group D	200 calls

4. The benefit will be available to all the eligible retired DOT employees, irrespective of the category of their registration and without prejudice to the existing benefits regarding entitlement for Non-OYT-SS category telephone connection available to employees of certain pay scales.

5. The retired employees will have to furnish a valid documentary proof of having been retired from DOT and the period of service rendered in DOT duly certified before his/her retirement from DOT.

6. After the death of retiree/spouse, the telephone will be treated as a general category telephone and rental will be charged as applicable to General Category telephone.

The date of implementation is w.e.f. 1.10.1998.

SdA (S.K. BHARDWAJ) Asstt. Director General (PHA)

Release of Commemorative Stamps in the name of Rajsri Bhugyachandra

116. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have contemplated any plan to release postage stamp in the name of renowned architectures/artists/ literature leaders of the North Eastern States;

(b) whether Government have received a proposal for releasing a commemorative postage stamp in the name of Rajsri Bhugyachandra of Manipur during the centenary celebration of this year;

(c) if so, by when it will be released; and

(d) if not, why such renowned personage should be disrespected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. 25% of the stamps by Department of Posts issued annually are earmarked for personalities of national or international .importance. Such personalities of the North Eastern States are also included in the Department's annual programme for issuing such stamps. Proposals